

Message Text

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5929

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SUBJECT: ELIGIBILITY OF RETURNEES FROM ISRAEL FOR USRP TYPE ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 223658

1. MISSION HAS REVIEWED SUBJECT POLICY IN LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE SINCE INCEPTION ONE YEAR AGO. AGREE THAT POLICY IS ARBITRARY AT BEST. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT POLICY BUT EXCEPTIONS WHICH HAVE CREATED DIFFICULTIES.

2. OUR STATISTICS FOR JAN 1-AUG 31, 1975 SHOW THAT WE HAVE DECLARED ELIGIBLE 886 PERSONS EX-ISRAEL, OF WHICH 514 LAISSEZ-PASSER HOLDERS, 372 ISRAELI PASSPORT HOLDERS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE HAD 3,465 EX-USSR BREAK-OFF CASES IN VIENNA PLUS 617 TCP'S. MINDFUL OF PROVISION IN FY 76 AUTHORIZATION TO USE NO MORE THAN 20 PERCENT (OR \$4 MILLION) FOR REFUGEES GOING TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN ISRAEL, AND ESTIMATING PER CAPITA COST OF SUCH REFUGEES AT AN AVERAGE \$2,000 (FIVE MONTHS IN ROME AT \$400 PER MONTH) WE CAN LEGALLY ACCOMMODATE ONLY ABOUT 2,000 PERSONS UNDER THIS PROGRAM. AS OUR STATISTICS INDICATE, WE HAVE CARED FOR TWICE THAT NUMBER IN THE PAST 8 MONTHS.

3. NUMBER OF ISRAELI PASSPORT HOLDERS IN EUROPE NOT KNOWN TO MISSION NOR IS THERE ANY WAY
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TO FIND OUT. IN THE BEGINNING, THOSE WHO REGISTERED

WITH VOLAGS FOR ASSISTANCE HAD REASONABLE CASES FOR LEAVING ISRAEL AFTER A LENGTHY STAY. AS THE YEAR PROGRESSED, REASONS BECAME MORE CONTRIVED. EARLY FAMILY REUNION CASES MEANT THAT FAMILY MEMBERS WANTED TO JOIN OTHERS IN EUROPE TO RESETTLE TOGETHER. ALL RECENT CASES CONCERN FAMILY UNITS WHOSE RELATIVES (SEPARATE FAMILY UNITS) HAD EMIGRATED TO THE US SOME YEARS AGO. OTHER CASES CONCERN CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION IN ISRAEL BECAUSE ONE FAMILY MEMBER IS NOT JEWISH. THE LATEST FAD IS CLAIM OF DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF LACK OF CIRCUMCISION.

4. MISSION RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING EX-ISRAEL POLICY TO BE EFFECTIVE ON ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST POLICY (OCTOBER 1):

A. ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE RESIDED IN ISRAEL FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR ARE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE. LAISSEZ-PASSER (WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS ISSUED DURING FIRST YEAR) IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF REFUGEES DESIRE NOT TO RESETTLE IN ISRAEL.

B. FAMILY REUNION CASES ARE CONSIDERED THOSE WHERE MEMBER OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY UNIT (PARENTS, CHILDREN AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO DO NOT HAVE THEIR OWN FAMILY UNIT) WISH TO REUNITE IN WESTERN EUROPE BEFORE FINAL RESETTLEMENT OF FIRST GROUP.

C. PERSONS WHO HAVE ACCEPTED ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP, AS EVIDENCED BY ISRAELI PASSPORT, AND WHO CLAIM DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF RELIGION, ETC., MUST DOCUMENT SUCH DISCRIMINATION TO PROVE ELIGIBILITY. IN THESE CASES, MISSION SEES NO DIFFICULTY WITH RECEIVING DOCUMENTED JUSTIFICATION (RATHER THAN SOB-STORIES) FROM VOLAGS FOR REVIEW TO DETERMINE IF INDIVIDUAL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN FIRMLY RESETTLED.

4. IF YOU CONCUR, WILL NOTIFY VOLAGS. PLEASE ADVISE. DALE

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